

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-4, 6-11, and 13-26 are now pending in this application.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given to the claims.

Rejection of Claims 1-4 Based on Takahashi

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,125,685 (“Takahashi”). For at least the following reasons, this rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the features “a movable part that is movable in the slack holder, and that is connected to the steering column and configured to slide with the steering column in the front-rear direction...and a bracket supporting the steering column and movable in the front/rear direction, wherein the slack holder is fixed to the bracket.” Takahashi does not teach or suggest these features. In particular, Takahashi discloses a structure having a storage housing 2 which includes a fixed holder 11 and a movable holder 10. (See column 3, lines 34-42 of Takahashi.) The fixed holder 11 is directly fixed to the steering column 33 via the leg 22 and the movable holder 10 is fixed to the telescopic function 34 via the leg 17. (See column 4, lines 48-64 and Figs. 4 and 6 of Takahashi.) Takahashi does not teach or suggest a bracket wherein the slack holder (with the movable part contained therein) is fixed to the bracket. For at least this reason, claim 1 is not anticipated by Takahashi.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and are allowable therewith for at least the same reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable limitations contained therein.

For at least these reasons, favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 8-12 Based on Takahashi and Horiuchi

Claims 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of U.S. Patent 5,229,544 (“Horiuchi”). For at least the following reasons, this rejection is traversed.

Claims 8-11 depend from claim 1 (as amended), which includes the features “a movable part that is movable in the slack holder, and that is connected to the steering column and configured to slide with the steering column in the front-rear direction...and a bracket supporting the steering column and movable in the front/rear direction, wherein the slack holder is fixed to the bracket.” As previously discussed, Takahashi does not teach or suggest these features. Horiuchi does not cure these deficiencies. For at least these reasons, claims 8-11 are not rendered unpatentable over Takahashi and Horiuchi, without regard to the further patentable features contained therein.

As to claim 12, this claim has been canceled.

For at least these reasons, favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 15-22 Based on Takahashi and Maeda

Claims 15-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of U.S. Patent 5,556,059 (“Maeda”). For at least the following reasons, this rejection is traversed.

Claim 15 depends from claim 1, which includes the features “a movable part that is movable in the slack holder, and that is connected to the steering column and configured to slide with the steering column in the front-rear direction...and a bracket supporting the steering column and movable in the front/rear direction, wherein the slack holder is fixed to the bracket.” As previously discussed, Takahashi does not teach or suggest these features. Maeda does not cure these deficiencies. For at least these reasons, claim 15 is not rendered unpatentable over Takahashi and Maeda, without regard to the further patentable features contained therein.

Claim 16 has been amended to include the features “a movable part that is...connected to the steering column and configured to slide with the steering column in the front-rear direction...and a bracket supporting the steering column and movable in the front/rear direction, wherein the slack holder is fixed on the bracket.” Takahashi does not teach or suggest these features. In particular, Takahashi discloses a structure having a storage housing 2 which includes a fixed holder 11 and a movable holder 10. (See column 3, lines 34-42 of Takahashi.) The fixed holder 11 is directly fixed to the steering column 33 via the leg 22 and the movable holder 10 is fixed to the telescopic function 34 via the leg 17. (See

column 4, lines 48-64 and Figs. 4 and 6 of Takahashi.) Takahashi does not teach or suggest a bracket wherein the slack holder (with the movable part contained therein) is fixed to the bracket. Maeda does not cure these deficiencies. For at least these reasons, claim 16 is not rendered unpatentable over Takahashi and Maeda.

Claims 17-22 depend from claim 16 and are allowable therewith for at least the same reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable limitations contained therein.

For at least these reasons, favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Allowability of New Claims 23-26

New claims 23-26 depend from and contain all the limitations of either claim 1 or claim 16, and are allowable therewith for at least the same reasons as set forth above without regard to the further patentable limitations contained therein. For at least this reason, allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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